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Caught Red-Handed

British & US Military Missions Go Spying in GDR

Members of the British and US military missions in the German Democratic Republic have recently been caught red-handed in acts of military espionage, Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister of the GDR, disclosed on July 19th.

During May and June this year, Walter Ulbricht stated, members of the security service of the German Democratic Republic, in encounters with responsible members of the western military missions, had relieved them of large numbers of military maps marked with suitable sites for parachute landings, bomb targets, and other markings clearly intended for military purposes.

(The western military missions, one of the few remnants of the post-war quadripartite occupation authority in Germany, are stationed in Potsdam, just outside Berlin. They are accredited to the Commander of the Soviet Troops at present stationed on the territory of the German Democratic Republic. They have approximately the functions of the military attache's department of a normal embassy. The British military mission, under the command of Brigadier Joseph Packard, consists of about 30 officers and men; the US mission is 17 strong, and the French mission 14 strong. The Soviet army maintains parallel military missions in West Germany.)

Addressing a crowded press conference in East Berlin on July 19th, Walter Ulbricht showed hundreds of journalists from both German states and abroad many of the maps and photographs taken from members of the western military missions. He stated:

"When US officers were busy with preparations for war and civil war in the area of Karl-Marx-Stadt (formerly Chemnitz), members of our State Security Service relieved them of a quantity of maps. They took over a total of 79 military maps from the American group operating under the command of Major Ramundo.

"The authorities of the GDR relieved a group of British officers, led by Brigadier Packard, of a total of 122 military staff maps. 50 of them were American-made maps produced in 1959.

"The maps taken from the members of the American and British missions are specially marked to show important industrial objects, power-stations, transformers, high-tension lines, water-supply systems, etc. The American and British officers had made reconnaissance journeys and marked their maps with landing places for parachutists in the areas of Magdeburg, Halle, Cottbus and other areas of the GDR. They had also marked suitable landing areas for planes in these areas. Bomb targets had also been ascertained.

"I should like to draw attention to the fact that the chief of the American group surrendered not only maps, but also the full English text of the orders which he had received from his chief."

Walter Ulbricht then showed the journalists a series of photographs:

"In order to disperse any ideas that these gentlemen were really just harmless civilians who liked taking snaps, I should like to show you the camera which was taken from Brigadier Packard, and ma-

Walter Ulbricht shows the evidence

terial taken from others. Here you see the camera, with a telephoto lens three feet long. This is not a camera for taking harmless snapshots.

"Here you see the photos which they made of the bridges over the River Elbe, and the maps marked with the places in which these gentlemen were particularly interested.

"Here you see the photograph of a landing site in the Bitterfeld area. This photo was handed over to us by Major Ramundo of the American Military Administration.

"Here you have a photograph taken by Major N. of the British Army. Investigation showed that it was foreseen as a landing place for a certain type of plane.

"Here you see a sketch-map made by the American Major J. in the area of Sangerhausen, with notes on spots of military importance.

"The gentlemen showed such great interest in the GDR that they even devoted attention to the sewage pipes. Here is a sketch-map which was in the possession of Brigadier Packard: this sketch shows part of a sewage pipe in which it was intended to hide certain apparatus.

"I hope that these facts will suffice. I have invited General Clyde D. Eddleman, Commander-in-Chief of the US Army Forces in Europe, to come and have a look at these maps if he is so interested in them. So far he has not replied.

"These documents in our possession confirm that the US Military Mission is particularly interested in the area in which the main military attack is planned, that is to say for the line Eisenach, Karl-Marx-Stadt etc. A number of German spies working for the Americans in this area have handed over to us material, and the orders which they received from their US spy bosses.

"I do not think that it can be a coincidence that there is full agreement between the NATO plan for aggression, the plan of West German War Minister Strauss, the markings on the maps of the British and American officers, and the information given by these German spies."

Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht then turned to the plans for aggression which had been drawn up by the West German militarists:

"We have information that Herr Adenauer and Herr Strauss want to begin with a 'limited war'. Herr Hitler also wanted to begin with a limited war, with the attacks on Austria and the Sudeten area of Czechoslovakia.

"What is Herr Strauss' plan? The initial phase of the aggression is planned like this: a fascist provocation should be launched against the GDR, by sending West German fascists into the GDR disguised as immigrants, returnees or visitors. These fascists or neo-nazis should commit acts of provocation, and at the same time frontier provocations should give an excuse for the intervention of special units of the West Germany army. This should all take place at blitzkrieg speed. The plan foresees that contact with Soviet troops should be avoided, and that the whole thing should be presented as though it were an inner-German affair.

"You will understand that we regard this development very seriously . . . We appeal to all West Germans to frustrate the plans of Adenauer and Strauss, and to struggle with us in the German Democratic Republic for a relaxation of tension, which should be attained by disarmament and a policy of understanding.

"The main task ahead is to make it impossible for Adenauer and Strauss to unleash a new World War, and to take steps to ensure that West Germany does not remain the overseas military base of the USA.

"The following steps are necessary:

1. Cancellation of the atomic armament of West Germany.
2. Disarmament.
3. Restoration of West German sovereignty.
4. West Germany must quit NATO and foreign military bases must be abolished.
5. The two German states must negotiate with each other and establish an all-German council.
6. A peace treaty with Germany should be concluded, and West Berlin should become a demilitarised Free City.

"In one sentence: We want a neutral Germany. Our people could live in peace in a Germany the neutrality of which was guaranteed by the Soviet Union and the United States."

Comment

"A British Embassy spokesman in Bonn described Herr Ulbricht's charges as 'ridiculous' . . . It was normal for officers to carry maps when travelling."
("Daily Telegraph", London, July 20th)

"After the experiences of his American colleagues, the British general, we must admit, should really have left his maps at home."
("Der Tagesspiegel", West Berlin, July 20th)

Nuclear Arms for Speidel

1. After the return of West German War Minister Strauss from the United States, atomic armament in West Germany was speeded up. In the USA he had reached agreement on the equipment of the West German army with nuclear weapons of various types for aggressive war.

2. Agreement was reached in the USA that with the help of a technical-military group attached to the "Standing Group" of the NATO Military Committee, the arms restrictions formerly imposed on West Germany should be avoided and cancelled.

3. The NATO commanders agreed on June 21st 1960 that the restrictions on the production and stock-piling of nuclear weapons in West Germany must be cancelled. A ruling to this effect has been prepared for the meeting of the NATO Council. In the meantime a large number of American atomic warheads have been stock-piled in West Germany.

4. Agreement has been reached on West German preparations for participation in the production of nuclear weapons. Final arrangements should be made when War Minister Strauss visits the USA in autumn.

5. The USA has arranged to hand over nuclear weapons to the NATO Supreme Command. This means that atomic warheads will be put at the disposal of General Speidel, Chief of NATO Ground Forces, Central Europe.

(Walter Ulbricht at his press conference in Berlin, July 19th)

BONN'S OWN EICHMANN

New Disclosures on Dr. Globke's Murderous Past

State Secretary Hans Globke, West German Chancellor Adenauer's personal assistant, was one of Hitler's top assistants in the extermination of the Jews in Europe.

This fact has been finally proved by the discovery in old nazi files, held in the German Democratic Republic, of Globke's personal file.

This file was shown to journalists from all parts of of the world at a press conference in East Berlin on July 28th. It had previously been known that Globke had written the official legal commentary on the infamous "Nuremberg Laws", the nazi racial legislation which opened the road to the gas-chambers for millions of Jews. The new documents just discovered show that Globke not only wrote the commentary but drafted the original laws himself as well.

Other disclosures were that Globke had been decorated by Hitler for his part in the nazi conquest of Austria and Czechoslovakia, that he had been one of the officials in charge of the "resettlement" of millions of Poles after nazi conquest, and that in January 1945, four months before the end of the war, he became Heinrich Himmler's right hand man in the internal administration of Hitler's crumbling Reich.

The Nuremberg Laws promulgated by the nazi government in 1935 excluded the Jews from the German nation and relegated them to the position of third-class citizens. After the war allied war crimes courts in Germany ruled that the Nuremberg Laws were a major part of the programme which aimed at the almost complete extermination of the Jews, an aim which was achieved.

The new documents discovered in Herr Globke's personal file show that Globke himself drafted these laws. The evidence consists of a letter from Reich Minister of the Interior Wilhelm Frick to Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess on April 21st 1938. This letter asks for approval for the promotion of Hans Globke to a higher post and states:

"Senior Government Counsellor Dr Globke is undoubtedly one of the most capable and hard-working officials in my Ministry. He played an outstanding part in the drafting of the following laws:

a. The Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honour of September 15th 1935.

b. The Law for the Protection of the Genetic Health of the German People of October 18th 1935 ...

d. The Law for the Changing of Family and Given Names of January 1st 1938."

The promotion was approved by Hitler on July 13th 1938. The first two laws in the drafting of which Dr Globke had played "an outstanding part" were the Nuremberg racial laws. The harmless-sounding "Law for the Changing of Names", also drafted by Globke, obliged Jews to add the given names of "Israel" or "Sarah" to their other names so that they could immediately be recognised.

Other documents in the personal file show that Hitler awarded Globke the "Medal in Memory of March 13th 1938" for his "very special services" in the nazi conquest of Austria, and the "Medal in Memory of October 1st 1938" for his special services in the nazi conquest of the Sudeten area of Czechoslovakia. In both cases his "special services" had consisted of drafting legal decrees extending nazi anti-Semitic legislation to the conquered territories.

On January 20th 1940, soon after the outbreak of the Second World War, the Reich Ministry of the Interior applied to the military authorities for a postponement of Dr Globke's military service. The letter stated:

"Dr Globke cannot be spared. He is in charge of the questions of nationality arising from the establishment of the Protectorate, the annexation of the eastern territories, ... and the resettlement action ..."

The "re-settlement action" referred to in this letter consisted in the expulsion of Poles from the German-annexed parts of Poland, and the concentration of Polish Jews in ghettos, from which they were later taken direct to the gas-chambers.

Later in the war Globke was directly implicated in the deportation of Jews from Denmark, Norway, and other countries. The Committee for German Unity in East Berlin, which called the press conference at which the documents on Globke's nazi past were displayed, announced that new disclosures on Globke's part in these crimes would be made at a later date.

Shortly before the end of the war, after SS chief Heinrich Himmler had taken over the Reich Ministry of the Interior, Globke was placed in charge of such key sectors of the work of the ministry as "The New Order in Occupied Territories in the West", and the application of the Nuremberg Laws. Himmler appointed Globke as his liaison officer with Goering, the

US Court Ruling

"The laws and decrees drafted or approved by Stuckart (Globke's boss in the Nazi Ministry of the Interior, ed.) were a major factor in the programme which aimed at the almost total extermination of the Jews ...

If the commandants of the death camps, and the people who deported the Jews to the east, are tried, found guilty, and punished, then those men are equally guilty who, in the peace of their offices in the Ministries participated in this campaign by issuing the necessary orders, decrees and instructions."

(Finding of the American War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg, April 11th–13th 1949. Re-translated from German.)

Quote I

"I shall not allow any attacks on my honour or the honour of Ministerial Director Globke ... I have scarcely ever known an official of such loyalty and objectivity as Herr Globke."

Chancellor Adenauer, West German Parliament, May 31st 1951

Quote II

"I believed that it was my duty to stay at my post and give what little help I could to those people whom the Nazis were persecuting."

Hans Globke in an interview with "The Guardian", Manchester, June 17th 1960

Wehrmacht Supreme Command, Hitler's Chancellory, and the Foreign Ministry.

Professor Albert Norden, addressing the press conference in East Berlin, stated that there had been the closest cooperation between Globke and Adolf Eichmann, now awaiting trial on war crimes charges in Israel. Professor Norden stated:

"Globke was in charge of Jewish questions in the Ministry of the Interior: Eichmann carried out the same functions in the Reich Security Main Office. One extended the area of the Nuremberg Laws to Austria and Czechoslovakia: the other established central offices there for the liquidation of the Jews.

"After the attack on Poland, Globke took over the task of 're-settling the Poles and Jews'. Eichmann had the same task in the Reich Security Main Office.

"On August 17th 1938 a decree written by Globke laid down that every Jew must report to the Gestapo. He thus handed Himmler and Eichmann full lists of the Jews due for destruction. Globke prepared the way with laws and decrees, and Eichmann put the decrees into practice."

Professor Norden stated that all incriminating material on Globke and Eichmann would be forwarded to the Israeli Public Prosecutor.

W. GERMAN NAVAL MAN COMES EAST

Further members of the West German armed forces have fled to the German Democratic Republic in the past few weeks, bringing with them more details of the plans for aggressive war worked out in Bonn.

Latest arrival was Senior Boatswain Joachim Steppat, who had served in the West German U-boat fleet. In an interview on GDR TV on July 23rd, Steppat showed some of the military documents, stamped "NATO-Secret" and "Top Secret" which he had brought with him.

He stated that he had been encouraged to seek refuge in the German Democratic Republic after hearing of the similar step taken by Major Bruno Winzer, Public Relations Office of the Luftwaffe Southern Command, and Lieutenant Adam von Gliga, former adjutant of the Inspector General of the Luftwaffe. (Full reports of the disclosures made by these two officers were carried in GERMAN REPORT on July 22nd.)

Boatswain Steppat stated that he had joined the West German Navy in 1956 in the belief that it was a purely defensive force. Experience had shown him that the West German Navy was being built up for aggressive warfare in the Baltic, he said.

"The West German U-boat fleet is a purely offensive arm" Steppat stated. "It has the same taks as Hitler's U-boat fleet, in which I served as a young man. 12 submarines of the most modern design are being readied for launching, and in addition the Howaldt Shipyard in Hamburg is now modernising the old nazi submarine "U 2540" with a displacement of 1820 tons and a crew of 57. Boats of this size can be equipped with rockets."

The officers and sailors of the West German Navy were being systematically trained on the basis of experience won by the nazi fleet. Secret document B No. 2614/58 VS A 3a, which he had brought with him, outlined the World War Two lessons to be studied by officers of the new West German Navy. The subjects for study included the following:

The occupation of Narvik in Norway.

The loss of the "Scharnhorst".

The bombardment of Spitzbergen in 1943.

The use of MTBs in the Black Sea.

The use of German and British MTBs in 1939/1940.

This document also advised indoctrination officers to "hold regular discussions on political questions, to raise the standard of idealism and stop materialistic thinking, and to make recommendations and exercise control of reading matter both in service and outside service hours."

Boatswain Steppat said that the "political discussions" consisted largely of describing affairs in the German Democratic Republic as if practically the whole population were awaiting salvation by the West, and that they expected the West German armed forces to "liberate" them. "Our officers and indoctrination officers declared quite frankly that civil war between East and West was unavoidable".

"Documents which I have brought with me show that naval harbour construction on the Baltic coastline of West Germany is being pushed ahead as a matter of priority, so that by the middle of 1961 everything will be ready for action. Two-thirds of the West German Navy are already stationed in this area."

A WESTERN VIEW

"No Sir, Herr Defence Minister, not a single new officer took off for the East again today, Herr Minister!"

(from the "Koelnische Rundschau" Cologne, West Germany)

German "Beau Gestes" Quit

More than 2000 German members of the French Foreign Legion have deserted to the Algerian Liberation Army or been taken prisoner in the past four years, Si Mustafa, representative of the Algerian Supreme Command, stated in an interview in East Berlin on July 26th.

Si Mustafa, head of the Repatriation Commission of the Algerian Liberation Army, was visiting the German Democratic Republic for talks on the repatriation of German deserters and prisoners. He appealed to mothers in West Germany and West Berlin to stop their sons and husbands from being lured into the French Foreign Legion. Despite numerous public protests the French authorities maintain Foreign Legion recruiting centres both in West Berlin and in West Germany.

Pigs, Cows and Socialism

By Allen Mann

The old patchwork-quilt look of the countryside in the German Democratic Republic has vanished for ever. Since spring this year all farmers have joined agricultural production cooperatives, or collective farms, generally known by the abbreviation of LPG "Landwirtschaftliche Produktionsgenossenschaft".

The little strips of fields, planted with differing crops by the smallholders, have vanished, and been replaced by broad fields which can be economically tended. Today there are about 19,000 collective farms in Democratic Germany, with a total of 930,000 members. Some of the farms are just getting organised, while others are already very flourishing examples of the shape of things to come. I was recently able to visit one of the well-established farms together with other journalists from both German states and abroad.

The farm we went to see was the "Friedrich Engels" LPG, which has its headquarters in the mansion of a Junker who had owned large stretches of land in this area before 1945. The "Friedrich Engels" LPG consists of three villages and more than 7000 acres of rich dark earth near Schafstaedt in the low foothills of the Harz Mountains.

The man who was describing the farm to a group of visiting reporters, Chairman Wilhelm Paizoni, was certainly very different from his wealthy predecessor, who is probably in West Germany somewhere, still sulking about his lost territory and income. Paizoni was one of the 12 farmers who pooled their little fields in August 1952 to start the LPG off with a total area of about 300 acres. By the spring of 1953 it had grown to a membership of 70 and had taken the big step of becoming a "Type 3" LPG — that means that the members pooled not only their farmland (as in "Type 1") but also meadows, woods, machinery and most of their farm animals. ("Type 2" — an intermediary form — has never been popular).

But then, as Wilhelm Paizoni told us, their LPG began to have difficulties and the farmers' income remained fairly low — a common complaint with young collective farms. The neighbouring farmers were not overly enthusiastic as a result and membership figures stagnated — also a common complaint in those years. It was not until 1957-1958 that the "Friedrich Engels" farm really found its feet — and it was the cooperative farmers' new prosperity which finally convinced the other farmers.

Today they are all in the LPG. In addition, two smaller cooperative farms in adjacent villages have joined up, too, so that there are now 712 members, almost half of them women, who become members on the same basis as the men.

In this area, large numbers of men have always gone off to work in the big chemical plants nearby, and the women used to work as hired hands on the estates of the "Junkers". In fact, 40% of the present members were originally hired labourers. After the Land Reform in 1945, most of the 270 family units now in the LPG got small farms of their own for the first time, but the main farming burden continued to rest on the women, for many of the men continued to go to work in the factories.

Chairman Paizoni could have kept on for hours, giving us facts and figures on the LPG's past, present and well-charted future with only occasional help from one of the LPG's book-keepers. But we wanted to see the farm, so he began to show us around a little in the huge LPG.

The main impression I received from my visit to the barnyard animals is that animal husbandry in the GDR is really going on a mass production basis at last. The old one-family farms could never manage more than a few cattle or sheep, and the new LPGs are still only getting on their feet, but this farm showed developments which impressed even me, although I have never been really interested in things like feeding formulas for growing heifers.

What impressed me most, perhaps, was that much of the work of caring for the farm's 1800 head of cattle was done without getting one's hands dirty or even getting too close to the animals. Their fodder was loaded into a long trough from the trailer of a tractor driven through the length of the long cowshed. Another tractor drove through the other side of the building, clearing the resulting cowdung away with a big scraper. Twice a day the cattle were urged along to a white-tiled room with a "fish-bone milkstand", where they lined up nicely in double rows of seven or eight — back to back, at fish-bone angle — and a milker with one helper walked down the central aisle between them, hooking them on and off the considerate, tender, but very efficient and hygienic milking equipment. The cows were arranged in groups like an old-fashioned grade-school class — the "quickest" ones were milked together while those who need more time were in another group. The laggards who parted with their milk especially slowly were kept in for individual treatment after the others were

Modern "fish-bone" milking installation on a collective farm in Democratic Germany

finished. This equipment makes it possible for 2 skilled milkers to milk 240 cattle every day.

And with all this labour-saving mechanisation, the animals seemed to have a very good life, too. Instead of the old narrow stalls, they were kept in a row of large pens, each holding about twenty animals, which permitted them to walk about indoors and out whenever they wished. This new kind of "open-air stall" is much less massively built and thus more economical — and it has been found that fresh air for cattle is just as healthy as it is for human beings. The rather sedate cows obviously appreciated this relative freedom, but it was even nicer for the little black and white calves who romped friskily all around their spacious pens as if to show off for the visitors.

"Hog village" — it might also be translated "pigtown" — was a clean little suburb of straw and wooden bungalows. It would not have held out well against the big, bad wolf but it seemed just the thing for the heavy old sows and boars or the rascally-looking bands of youngsters who also had room to play their games of tag and follow-the-leader. The farm is raising about 2800 hogs in little suburbs like this, all located at some distance from the villages.

On another occasion I observed the new methods of "intensive" poultry-raising which "Friedrich Engels" LPG is now adopting for its chickens. This system, adapted from somewhat similar Soviet methods, permits ten or twelve thousand hens to be housed on two sides of a large poultry-house. They walk around on a mesh wire floor but feed from long troughs which are filled mechanically by automatic mixers driven up and down the central aisle. When a hen feels the urge to lay an egg, it has been educated to jump up to one of a long row of little nest-boxes with slanting floors up above the feeding levels. The egg rolls gently to a little ledge on the central aisle where it is picked up and placed in a basket by a girl riding up and down the aisle on a little egg-cart propelled exactly like a bicycle. This pedaling and the egg-collecting seemed the only two non-mechanical jobs in the building — aside from the actual laying procedure.

These modern pigs built their houses of straw

The name of the village where "Friedrich Engels" LPG is situated is Schafstaedt, which means Sheep Town, and of course the LPG has its own little sheep village, too. Its inhabitants were at pasture, however, too far off to visit, but Chairmann Paizoni assured us that modern methods were also employed there wherever possible. He also boasted a bit that the sheep were a very fine breed, the pride of the farm, and were a match for New Zealand sheep in quality. Breeding rams had already been exported to Bulgaria and Turkey.

The farm is planning all sorts of new projects to mix, prepare and transport fodder without human labour and to increase its production. It will also start keeping bees and nutria rats soon — the honey and pelts will bring in lots of additional funds for the farm.

What about the crops? This side of farming has also benefited greatly from modern techniques, much more than was ever remotely possible for the little farms of the past. The Machine and Tractor Station, a government-owned enterprise which used to serve both farmers and LPGs, has been converted into a repair station and has divided up its machine park amongst the larger LPGs of the area. The "Friedrich Engels" farm benefited from this change-over to the tune of 43 tractors, 5 big grain combines, 7 sugar beet and 3 potato combines and a large variety of lesser equipment — plows, seeders, harrows, loaders and many more — all of which help to cut down the back-breaking labour at harvest-time, and permit farmers to have an 8-hour day for the first time in German history.

Chairman Paizoni told us that almost 90% of the work has now been at least partly mechanised — but there are some important gaps, such as weeding the big sugar beet fields so common in this area. That explained the teams of ten or twenty women we had seen out in the fields. But they are working on this problem, too, and hope to master that soon so as to make farming pleasanter and lighter for everyone in the co-operative farm.

Aside from these advantages of saving labour, especially heavy, dirty and otherwise unpleasant forms of labour, and allowing the farmer much more leisure time, the mechanisation programme also has another important purpose, of course. Mass production of meat, eggs, milk, butter as well as fruit and vegetables — only possible here on the basis of cooperative farms — will mean that imports of these items will be largely unnecessary. They will then get

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Chairman Wilhelm Paizoni

Wilhelm Paizoni, 41-year-old chairman of the Friedrich Engels LPG, was born far away from the area where he now runs such a successful collective farm. He hails from the Alto Adige, or South Tyrol, in northern Italy, where there is a large German-speaking community.

Called up for service in Hitler's Wehrmacht during the war, Paizoni was wounded, and sent to hospital in the Harz mountains. Here he met his present wife, and settled down after the war on a small piece of land he was granted in the Land Reform of 1945. In 1952 Wilhelm Paizoni was one of the moving spirits in founding a collective farm in the locality, and since then he has been re-elected chairman of the collective every year. "When I was a youngster I fell into the terrible trap laid by the nazis" says Wilhelm Paizoni. "Now I am older and wiser, and I know what I want in life. This farm here has meant a great deal to all of us — it cost us a lot of work, and there will be lots more work to come, for we have big plans. We are proud of it and ready to defend it if it should ever be menaced."

GDR AID FOR CONGO

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has offered all possible help to the young Congo Republic, particularly in the form of technicians and training facilities for students from Congo.

The offer was made on July 23rd in an official statement, which said:

"The imperialist attack on the independence of Congo is intended at the same time as a blow against the national independence movement in the whole of Africa. The Government of the German Democratic Republic sharply condemns the illegal imperialist aggression against Congo. It supports the demand of the Congo people and the Government of the Congo Republic that the Belgian and other imperialist troops of intervention should be immediately withdrawn from Congo territory.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic regards it as its duty to extend to the Congo Republic, together with the other peace-loving states, all help possible for the preservation of the independence and territorial integrity of the Congo Republic.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic finds it necessary to draw attention to the fact that West German military installations and airfields have been made available for the aggression, just as they were in the case of the Suez aggression and the British-American intervention in Lebanon and Jordan in 1958. It is not a matter of chance that to date the West German Government has not condemned the aggression, and that a major part of the West German press has given support to the chauvinist hate propaganda against the peoples of Africa . . .

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic sharply condemns the attitude of the (West) German Federal Republic. It calls for the immediate cessation of all West German measures which support the aggression either directly or indirectly. The Government of the German Democratic Republic expresses the hope that the African peoples and the governments of the African states will not equate the West German people with the aggressive policy of German imperialism and the Adenauer Government.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic is ready to participate with the means at its disposal in healing the wounds inflicted by the aggression. It is in particular ready to give all help and support in building up the state administration and the economy of the Congo Republic, particularly by making available experts, and providing additional facilities for the training of citizens of the Congo Republic."

A "Solidarity Committee for Africa" was established in the German Democratic Republic on July 22nd. Representatives of 14 African countries attended the founding meeting in East Berlin. The Solidarity Committee, which includes representatives of the five political parties of the German Democratic Republic, the trade unions, and other organisations, will begin its work by collecting funds to help the peoples of Africa.

Alarming Parallels to 1933

Alarming parallels between present-day West Germany and Nazi Germany in 1933 were listed by the West German "Fuldaer Volkszeitung" in its leading article of July 26th:

"What happened after 1933? First the parties and trade unions were 'coordinated' or forbidden. Then came press and radio. What we call 'public opinion' was swiftly and skilfully done away with. The exchange of political opinions was no longer tolerated, and certainly no legal opposition . . .

"The term 'communists' was freely used, for in Germany everyone has always been considered a disguised communist who was sincerely interested in social justice. Whoever was not a nazi was considered a communist . . .

"The development of public opinion in the Federal Republic today sometimes shows alarming parallels with the beginnings in 1933 . . .

"Is there a newspaper of international reputation in the Federal Republic today, for example, which dares to speak out for the millions of voters who are loyal to the Federal Republic but who do not agree with the policies of the present government party?

"Are not powerful witch-hunters again using the catch-phrase 'communist' for their own purposes?

"Are they not again compiling 'blacklists' and pushing the interests of their own party, which they arbitrarily equate with patriotic interests, under the slogan 'The Fatherland is in danger'?

"Anyone who is unhappy about the interlocking development of the Federal Republic with NATO; anyone who thinks that arming the Bundeswehr with atomic missiles is dangerous; anyone who dares to say that current western policies regarding communism are not effective or who criticises measures in the Federal Republic; anyone who tears aside the veil over events behind the Iron Curtain and points in calm words to the dangerous economic growth of the giant in the east — is suspected of being a communist, a traitor to the West. And he is placed on the list of those to be 'dispensed with' . . .

"Since no widely-heard voice rebels against this dirty inquisition, which uses the unfairest smear methods to destroy reputations, the inquisition is throttling the thought and speech of free and independent thinkers. And at the same time right-wing extremist organisations and groups, safe-guarding themselves by going all out for the 'will for military defence', are engaged in shamelessly minimising or even glorifying the crimes of the past and openly expressing their contempt for democracy!

"Public life is poisoned by fear of the power of the slanderers and their backers . . . People who want to be careful are becoming quieter every day. They are abandoning the struggle for freedom to the 'fools' who will be made to regret it some day. As for the opportunists, they have long since gone over to the side of those forces which they consider to be the strongest . . ."

(cont. from previous page)

cheaper and valuable foreign exchange can be saved for other commodities. There will also be an end to the recurrent shortages here — of eggs one season or of butter or beef the next — the indications that supply cannot keep up with the rapidly increasing demands of the population here. The new methods which are now being used by the cooperative farms more and more every month will thus help both the farmers and the consumers here, and will help to usher in an economy of plenty.

(Further articles in future issues of GERMAN REPORT will deal with other aspects of collective forming.)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

A remark I made about British soldiers in West Berlin in the "Berlin Notebook" on June 24th seems to have confused some readers, so perhaps a few words of explanation are necessary. A London reader wrote: "You ask at the tail end of your Berlin Notebook 'what are these British soldiers doing here in Berlin in the centre of the German Democratic Republic?' Is this not a misleading question? The whole of Berlin is in East Germany, geographically speaking, but juridically West Berlin is surely outside the sphere of the GDR. And while I can think of good reasons for bringing British troops back (and other good ones for keeping them in West Berlin), they are there with, not against, the wishes of the Federal Republic."

Bare Bones

It would be quite easy to write a book in answer to this letter, quoting all the voluminous and often contradictory pronouncements, agreements, and disagreements on the subject of West Berlin. GERMAN REPORT has gone over the ground fairly thoroughly in past numbers, so I shall try to get down to the bare bones of the subject.

The present situation is that two quite separate states exist in Germany. In the West there is the German Federal Republic, a traditional capitalist state, comprising the former British, American and French occupation zones. In the east there is the German Democratic Republic, a socialist state, consisting of the former Soviet occupation zone. Sensible people on both sides agree that it should be comparatively easy to reach some sort of a live-and-let-live status quo arrangement between these two German states, if it were not fo the anomalous situation of West Berlin, a capitalist enclave bang in the centre of the German Democratic Republic, and more than one hundred miles from the nearest point in West Germany.

Western Argument

The "western" argument on West Berlin goes like this: British, American and French troops are stationed in West Berlin as a result of the unconditional surrender of West Germany, and what they have they hold. They have no intention of withdrawing from West Berlin, which, under their aegis, has become an outpost of the capitalist west. It is important to note at this point that the British, French and American authorities have always made it plain that West Berlin is not, I repeat not, a part of the West German Federal Republic, and they have prevented the West German authorities from taking formal steps to incorporate West Berlin in the Federal Republic.

The "eastern" point of view, that is to say the point of view of the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union and its allies is this:

At the end of the war, the whole of Berlin formed part of the Soviet occupation zone. As such it legally forms part of the German Democratic Republic, established as the sovereign German Government in the whole of that occupation zone. The western troops moved into the western sectors of Berlin for the sole purpose of cooperating with the Soviet occupation authorities in applying the Yalta decisions, and the subsequent Potsdam Agreement, for the final denazification and demilitarisation of Germany. When the western powers breached the Potsdam Agreement by establishing a separate government for West Germany in 1949, and later even more conclusively by re-arming West Germany, they lost all right to station their troops in West Berlin.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has never abandoned its claim to the whole of Berlin. The Government is ready to face facts, however, something which some people in the west are very reluctant to do: it recognises that West Berlin has developed in a different way from the German Democratic Republic which surrounds it, and that the incorporation of West Berlin in the German Democratic Republic would create all sorts of difficulties, including the difficulty that the western powers would feel that they had lost face.

In order to deal with this difficulty, but at the same time to get round the anomaly of a western military base one hundred miles inside its state borders, the German Democratic Republic has suggested that West Berlin should become a demilitarised free city, until the final reunification of Germany. The German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union have repeatedly stressed their willingness to join in every conceivable guarantee, including a United Nations guarantee, for the inviolability of the West Berlin Free City and the traffic routes to the Free City.

I have presented as concisely and fairly as I can the "western" and the "eastern" points of view on the controversy. Since the Free City plan was first mooted in November 1958 I have discussed the situation with dozens of British and American journalists and editors, some of them very august. Nearly without exception, they were ready to agree in private conversation that some variant of the "free city" proposal would probably prove to be the best short-term method of dealing with the anomalous situation which has slowly grown up in the years since 1945, and that such a solution would help to relieve tension in Europe.

And to get back to the letter from the London reader which I quoted earlier, I should stress once again that his final sentence stating that British troops are in West Berlin at the wishes of the West German Government has nothing to do with the case. West Berlin, the western allies have always clearly stated, is not a part of West Germany, and the wishes of the West German Government are pretty immaterial.

Prittie Wrong

I don't want this column to deteriorate into into a running exposure of Mr Terence Prittie, Bonn correspondent of the "Guardian" of Manchester, but he does ask for it. In the "Guardian" of July 21st he was very upset because the Liberal Democratic Party of the German Democratic Republic had sent a letter to the "Guardian" addressed to the "Manchester Guardian", although the paper changed its name some months ago. This he finds to be an indication that "East Germans are out of touch with events in the Western world". In the same article, however, he shows his own ignorance by writing: "In East Germany . . . there is still recourse to the most senseless type of propaganda — typical was a long-winded indictment of the West German Luftwaffe General, Kammhuber, who had nothing to do with the Nazis and was a purely functional soldier."

Now Kammhuber was one of Hitler's top military commanders. On May 10th 1940 he staged a fake "allied" air-raid on the German town of Freiburg, thus providing the excuse for nazi bombing of civilian targets in the west. In 1943 Hitler promoted him to command the nazi Luftwaffe in Norway, and in August 1944, just after the bomb-plot against Hitler, when only the most trusty nazis were getting promotion, Kammhuber was promoted to full general. But of course he never had anything to do with the nazis.

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